

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZENS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 21, 2006 – 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

Westerly Town Hall

1. 6:40 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Present: Robert Ritacco, Co-Chair; Gail Mallard, Co-Chair; Richard Smith, Treasurer; Chaplin Barnes; Jonathan Eckel; William Haase, Town Planner; Thomas J. Liguori, Jr.; Richard Anthony; and Thomas Toscano, Jr.

Linda C. Hebert, Recording Secretary

Absent: M. Ann Lamb; Rita Deane; Joseph MacAndrew; Richard D. Comolli; David W. Gervasini; Brian McCuin; Harrison Day; Charles Vacca, Town Assessor; Nicholas Castagna, Town Council Liason; Anthony Giordano, Zoning Official; Joseph T. Turo, Esquire, Town Manager

Co-Chair Co-Chair Ritacco called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 9/7/06 MEETING

Motion made by Ms. Mallard, seconded by Mr. Eckel, that the aforesaid minutes be accepted and approved as printed.

3. Updated Review of Open Space & Recreation Element of Current Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Barnes submitted to Ms. Hebert some grammatical edits to be made to this section.

Page 89 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 – Use a Variety of Methods to Protect Westerly’s Open Space – The following shall be added:

“under the State Farm, Forest and Open Space Program.” shall be added to “There are other.... temporarily protected”

This Element has been approved by the Committee and ready for final edits by Mr. Barnes and Ms. Lamb.

4. Updated Review of Traffic & Transportation Element of Current Comprehensive Plan

Page 30- RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – Review Unauthorized or Illegal Use of Public Roadway Shoulders Which May Cause Safety Problems and Obstruct Pedestrian Access - This summarization shall be re-written by Ms. Mallard.

All other summarizations in this element have been approved by the Committee and are ready for final edits by Mr. Barnes and Ms. Lamb.

5. Updated Review of Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources Element of Current Comprehensive Plan

Page 49 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 – Develop a water quality monitoring program for inland and coastal waters to gage the effectiveness of protection measurers and serve as an early warning system in the event of contamination. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 49 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 – Incorporate results of water quality monitoring into ongoing land planning and regulation efforts conducted by the Town. (Administrative and Management) - This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 50 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – The Planning Board and Conservation Commission undertake an environmental educational program to increase public awareness of natural resource values and encourage property owners to protect ecologically important areas via easements and gifts of land, etc. Special emphasis could be given to wetland resources, inland and coastal. (Administrative and Management) - This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 50 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Develop a comprehensive local ground water protection strategy. (Administrative and Management) - This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 52 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – Acquire areas for protection purposes. (Capital Improvement)- This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 53 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 –Establish “River Corridor” along the entire length of the Town bordering the Pawcatuck River. (Regulatory) - This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 53 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Integrate the recommendations of the Pawcatuck River Estuary Management Project (Harbor Management Plan) into the Town’s land use regulations and enforcement/management programs where appropriate. (Regulatory, Administrative and Management) - This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 54 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Develop land use standards (such as Salt Ponds Overlay Protection District) that reflect the sensitive nature of the coastal environment including coordination with the policies of SAMP and CRMC for coastal ponds. (Regulatory) - This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 55 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Strengthen the management programs for Napatree Point and Maschaug Beach to control recreation overuse and natural predation of rare shorebirds. (Administration and Management) – This summarization shall be included in its entirety, with the following addition:

“in large part” shall be added to the first sentence of the second paragraph, after “Maschaug Beach”.

Page 35 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Establish Historic District Commission (HDC) and history district zoning for recognized areas. Develop design standards to be applied within designated historic areas which are reasonable and consistent with historic preservation goals. (Regulatory, Administrative and Management) – The original wording from Draft #2 shall be re-inserted here.

Page 36 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 – Utilize existing groups in the Town and State (including the Historic District Commission, if established) to foster community awareness of historic preservation programs on a long-term basis. (Administrative and Management) - The first two paragraphs of Draft #2 shall be re-inserted here.

Page 36 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – Acquire a map of archaeologically sensitive areas in Westerly (Administrative and Management) - This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 37 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 6 – Consider adopting a site development bylaw requiring an archaeological assessment in archaeological sensitive areas. (Regulatory) – This summarization shall be re-written by Mr. Haase and Mr. Liguori pending further investigation.

Page 38 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 8 – Integrate cultural programs and organizations with downtown revitalization efforts. (Administrative and Management) – This summarization is still pending. Mr. Haase will write a summarization for the next meeting.

6. Discussion of Land Use Element

Mr. Liguori submitted a hand-out with summarizations for this Element.

Page 74 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Amend the Zoning Ordinance and map to reflect and conform to the proposed land use designations as described in the (approved) Land Use Plan and shown on the accompanying plan graphics – This summarization shall be re-written for clarity, but not for content, by Mr. Liguori.

Page 76 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Review, and where necessary, revise the current cluster and PUD ordinances. – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

Page 77 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 1 – Establish a municipal management committee made up of the Town Manager and key department directors to insure appropriate consideration is given to the plan and that the main plan proposals are integrated into the work programs of all necessary departments. – This summarization shall

be included with the following changes:

“The Comprehensive Plan..... and grant applications.” (Mr. Liguori’s handout) shall be inserted after “ priorities and making decisions.” of Draft No. 1.

“The Town’s parallel..... least once every five years.” shall be deleted.

Page 77 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 2 – Incorporate the comprehensive planning process into the annual work programs of the Planning Board and the Town Planner, and provide the resources necessary to keep the process current and an effective part of municipal operations – This summarization shall be rewritten by Mr. Haase, Mr. Liguori, Mr. Anthony, Mr. Eckel and Mr. Toscano. The first part of the summarization, through “structure for implementing the Comprehensive Plan.” shall remain.

Page 78 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 3 – Involve neighboring communities in ongoing comprehensive planning process in order to address common problems and promote regional solutions. – This summarization shall be re-written by Mr. Haase, Mr. Liguori, Mr. Anthony, Mr. Eckel and Mr. Toscano.

Page 78 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 4 – (Related Action – See Public Services and Facilities Element) Update sewer facility plan to determine priority areas in need of sewerage and establish a system for approval of sewer extension and connection permits that is

consistent with the new plan. – This summarization shall be re-written to be more specific by Mr. Liguori, Mr. Toscano and Mr. Eckel.

Page 79 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 5 – Increase inspection and enforcement procedures to insure that all development is constructed in accordance with the conditions established at the time of approval.

– This summarization shall be included in its entirety with the addition of Mr. Liguori's sentence, which will be placed at the beginning of the paragraph.

Page 79 – RECOMMENDED ACTION NO. 6 – Revise Subdivision Regulations to conform to plan and provide for adequate municipal review of proposed developments. Develop departmental procedures for joint staff reviews by Planning and Engineering Departments for applications. – This summarization shall be included in its entirety.

7. Discussion of Housing Element

This item is to be included on the next agenda.

8. Updated Review of Services and Facilities Element Regarding Fire Districts

This item is to be included on the next agenda.

9. Updated Review of Economic Development Element of Current Comprehensive Plan

This item is to be included on the next agenda.

10. Discussion of Table of Contents Document submitted by William Haase

This item is to be included on the next agenda.

11. Discussion of Summary of Status of Recommended Actions for 1991 Comprehensive Plan submitted by Gail Mallard

This item is to be included on the next agenda.

12. Discussion of Memorandum from Donna Giordano, Town Clerk, concerning the Post Road Overlay Ordinance District

This item is to be included on the next agenda.

13. Other Items Raised by the Committed

The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2006, at 6:00 pm. The Committee intends continue the meeting until Phase I is complete, even if the meeting runs beyond the normal adjournment time of 8:00 pm.

The anticipated Public Comment Session will be held on October 24,

2006, at 7:00 pm at the Westerly Public Library on the third floor.

14. Hearing of the Public/Committee Response

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Anthony, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Unanimously approved by the Committee.

ATTEST:

Linda C. Hebert

Recording Secretary